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Jan 85

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Avalanche Notes

U.S. Forest Service
Westwide Avalanche Network

January 1985

Oops! We goofed. Did you notice that the December 1984 Notes was misdated 1985? Please correct this on your copy. This is called the reverse first-of-the-year checkbook syndrome.

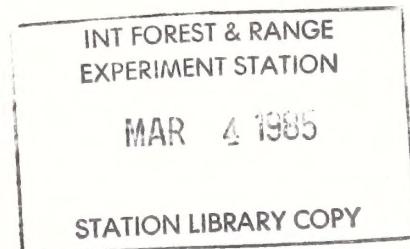
Except for parts of Colorado, January was a dry month in the mountains of the West, and in the Pacific Northwest, it was the driest January of record. No site in the Cascades of Washington and Oregon recorded as much as even 9 inches of snowfall. As a percentage of normal, amounts ranged from 1-6%. Most sites there recorded no avalanches for the month. Northward, Alyeska, AK managed 73% of normal snowfall, but had a busy avalanche month. South along the coast, in the Sierra, storms were only slightly more frequent than in the Cascades. Alpine Meadows and Squaw Valley, CA both recorded 33% of normal snows. This was their second driest January on record. Alpine Meadows still managed to release more than 100 avalanches, most falling on the 26th.

In the Intermountain area, storms missed Sun Valley, ID almost altogether: only 8% of normal snowfall fell there for its driest January ever. Elsewhere, Bridger Bowl, MT managed 61% of normal; Snowbird, UT, 53%; and Alta, UT, 47%.

Colorado showed a broad variation in snowfall amounts. At the low end were Crested Butte (47%) and Gothic (58%), while at the high end were Copper Mtn. (114%) and Vail (136%). In between were Loveland Pass (66%), Wolf Creek (79%), Berthoud Pass and Breckenridge (94%), and Monarch (98%). The big snowfall day was the 22nd when 7-18 inches fell. Vail benefited from 40 inches on the 19th-22nd. Taos, NM came in with 110% of normal snowfall.

Avalanche totals and accidents were far below their January norms. A total of seven accidents caught seven people. No victims were totally buried, and only one sustained injury -- a patroller at Bridger Bowl on the 3rd. A car was struck but not damaged on Loveland Pass on the 22nd. The winter's statistics thru January are tabulated below.

The end of January also brought the end of an era. The Forest Service Avalanche Research Project in Fort Collins, CO has closed its doors and filled in its snowpit. Budget cuts. For 24 years, Pete Martinelli was the only leader the project had ever had. Pete has retired, and the other scientists have been assigned to other projects. Who will fill the void?



Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station

Total Avalanches Reported

Damage Summary - This Winter

Area	This Month	This Month	People			Vehicles		Avalanche Damaged			
			C	B	I	K	B	D	Bldgs.	Lifts	Misc.
Central and So. Rockies	317	1187	16	7	0	3	1	0	3	0	0
Intermountain	118	581	6	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Coast	297	1200	21	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
All Areas	732	2968	43	11	6	3	1	0	3	0	0

U.S. FOREST SERVICE
ALPINE SNOW AND AVALAN RESEARCH PROJECT
RM STATION FORT COLLINS, COLO.

JANUARY 1985

SUMMARY OF WEATHER AND SNOW CONDITIONS

AREA	SNOWFALL		WATER EQUIVALENT		SNOW DEPTH		TEMPERATURE		WIND SPEED AND DIRECTION	
	TOTAL SNOW-FALL IN.	MAX AVG HR. DEN	IN. D. A. IN.	IN. D. A. IN.	IN. D. A. IN.	IN. D. A. IN.	DEGREES F	MEAN MAX DEGREES F	AVG MIN AVG	AVG FOR GE 15 MPH
	IN. D.	IN. A.	IN. H.	IN. D.	IN. A.	IN. H.	IN. D.	IN. A.	IN. H.	IN. D.
CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAINS										
ARAPAHOE BASIN, COLO	40.2	9.20	2.0	2.57	9.0	2.22	22	49	55	10.9
ASPEN HIGHLANDS, CO	35.6	11.14	22	1.79	5.2	22	8	40	44	240
ASPEN HIGHLANDS, RMNP, CO	31.9	6.06	11	1.79	3.19	12	7	22	22	15
BEAR LAKE, CO	0.67	0.06	14	2.22	0.72	22	14	7	27	290
BEAVER CREEK, COLO	49.0	0.07	9	3.51	0.62	22	14	1	1.6	290
BERTHOLD PASS, COLO	55.0	0.06	11	1.22	3.29	11	11	0	1.6	310
BERTHOLD-MINES PEAK	55.0	0.06	11	1.22	0.75	22	11	5	1.6	290
BRECKENRIDGE, COLO	50.0	0.06	11	1.22	2.90	11	11	5	1.6	290
COPPER Mtn, COLO	50.0	0.06	11	1.22	0.80	22	11	0	1.6	290
CRESTED BUTTE, COLO	23.0	0.07	9	2.22	0.65	22	6	3	1.6	290
GOTHIC, COLO	43.6	0.06	14	2.82	1.30	22	8	4	1.6	290
GOVTLAND PASS, U.S. 6	43.6	0.06	17	2.22	1.43	22	6	4	1.6	290
MARVINE RANCH, COLO	33.0	0.07	11	2.22	2.47	22	6	10	1.6	290
MARY JANE, COLO	72.5	0.06	16	2.22	4.08	22	15	7	1.6	290
MONARCH, COLO	47.2	0.06	16	2.22	2.96	22	18	4	1.6	290
PURGATORY, COLO	27.5	0.05	8	2.9	0.40	22	15	1	1.6	290
SUNLIGHT, COLO	39.0	0.06	10	2.22	1.30	22	10	5	1.6	290
TAOS, NEW MEXICO	47.0	0.05	14	2.22	2.24	22	8	4	1.6	290
TELLURIDE, COLO	40.5	0.05	16	9	0.80	22	9	4	1.6	290
VAIL, COLO	89.0	0.05	14	2.22	4.78	22	12	9	1.6	290
WINTER PARK, COLO	31.5	0.07	16	2.22	2.12	22	8	4	1.6	290
WOLF CREEK, COLO	71.4	0.07	18	2.29	0.46	22	8	0	1.6	290
INTERMOUNTAIN										
ALTA, UTAH	41.0	0.07	9	1	2.70	22	9	6	1	240
BIG SKY, MONT	16.5	0.09	4	19	0.55	47	19	6	1	240
BRIDGER BOWL, MONT	39.0	0.07	16	29	0.50	29	16	4	1	240
SCHWEITZER BASIN, ID	17.5	0.05	19	29	0.52	15	2	1	1	240
SNOWBIRD, UTAH	44.5	0.05	10	22	2.24	22	9	7	1	240
SUN VALLEY, IDAHO	4.0	0.08	2	8	0.30	17	2	0	1	240
TETON PASS, WYO	10.5	0.09	4	8	0.92	37	8	2	1	240
WEST COAST										
ALPINE MEADOWS, CAL	27.0	0.08	9	26	2.02	72	8	6	1	240
ALASKA, ALASKA	54.0	0.08	7	31	17.02	1.85	10	19	1	240
CRYSTAL MTN 1, WASH	4.2	0.03	2	20	0.38	15	2	0	1	240
CRYSTAL MTN 2, WASH	4.2	0.12	2	15	0.52	15	2	0	1	240
HOOD MOUNTAIN, ORE	8.8	0.05	1	20	0.09	0.71	15	2	0	240
MT. RAINIER PARADISE	8.7	0.14	5	15	1.22	15	2	1	1	240
MT. ROSE/SLIDE MT, NV	24.0	0.07	10	25	0.21	15	2	0	1	240
MUL TORNOK SKI HBL, OR	44.0	0.14	1	29	1.53	44	15	2	1	240
SNOQUALMIE PASS 1-90	2.0	0.41	2	15	0.53	2.50	26	5	1	240
SQUAW VALLEY, CALIF	17.2	0.23	7	25	3.99	64	15	1	1	240
STEVENS PASS, WASH	6.5	0.13	5	15	0.64	15	2	1	1	240
SUGAR BOWL, CALIF	22.0	0.07	7	26	0.64	15	2	1	1	240

-- DATA INCOMPLETE OR MISSING
M--ONE OR MORE DAYS OF RECORD MISSING--IF AVERAGE VALUE IS ENTERED, LESS THAN 10 DAYS RECORD IS MISSING
IF M IS ENTERED IN WIND SPEED COLUMN, LESS THAN 37 6-HOUR PERIODS ARE MISSING
GE--GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO

RECORD IS MISSING

U.S. FOREST SERVICE
ALPINE SNOW AND AVALANCHE RESEARCH PROJECT
RM STATION FORT COLLINS, COLO.

JANUARY 1895

AVALANCHE SUMMARY

AREA	CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAINS	TOTAL		TOTAL		DATES OF THIS MONTH NO.	TYPE OF AVALANCHE	FRACTURE LINE HEIGHTS IN FEET	VERTICAL DESCENT IN FEET	NUMBER OF DAYS WITH SLABS
		A V L	A V L	F T S	F T S					
	ARAPAHOE BASIN, COLO	8	56	29	22	31	SLABS	1000	1500	4
	ASPEN HIGHLANDS, COLO	33	109	22	22	31	SLABS	1000	1500	4
	ASPBEN SNOWMASS, COLO	33	103	22	22	31	SLABS	1000	1500	4
	BEAVER CREEK, COLOR	25	103	22	22	31	SLABS	1000	1500	4
	BERTHOLD PASS, COLO	25	103	22	22	31	SLABS	1000	1500	4
	BERTHOLD PASS, U.S. 40	25	103	22	22	31	SLABS	1000	1500	4
	BRECKENRIDGE, COLOR	21	54	22	23	31	SLABS	1000	1500	4
	COPPER MT., COLOR	15	14	18	28	41	SLABS	1000	1500	4
	CRESTED BUTTE, COLOR	15	14	18	28	41	SLABS	1000	1500	4
	GUTHRIE, COLOR	65	152	22	22	31	SLABS	1000	1500	4
	LOVELAND BASIN, COLOR	10	58	11	23	27	SLABS	1000	1500	4
	LOVELAND PASS, U.S. 6	24	88	15	31	41	SLABS	1000	1500	4
	MONARCH, COLORADO	19	20	15	31	41	SLABS	1000	1500	4
	RED Mtn PASS, U.S. 350	29	139	19	39	41	SLABS	1000	1500	4
	SUNLIGHT, COLORADO	12	211	19	39	41	SLABS	1000	1500	4
	TAOS, NEW MEXICO	17	201	19	39	41	SLABS	1000	1500	4
	URAD, MINN., COLOR	16	16	21	31	31	SLABS	1000	1500	4
	VALE, COLOR	25	31	12	31	31	SLABS	1000	1500	4
	WOLF CREEK, COLOR	2	31	12	31	31	SLABS	1000	1500	4
INTERMOUNTAIN										
	ALTA, UTAH	3	77	14	30	41	SLABS	1000	1500	4
	BIG SKY, MONT	42	169	1	29	31	SLABS	1000	1500	4
	BRIDGER COWL, MONT	67	167	2	29	31	SLABS	1000	1500	4
	SCHWILZER BASIN, ID	77	77	21	31	31	SLABS	1000	1500	4
WEST COAST										
	ALPINE MEADOWS, CAL	116	318	8	29	73	26	12	1500	4
	ALYESKA, ALASKA	17	145	2	31	18	8	15	1500	4
	KIRKWOOD, MDWS, CALIF	27	127	7	29	13	26	16	1500	4
	MAMMOTH MTN, CALIF	22	37	8	27	18	8	17	1500	4
	MT. RAINIER, WASH	6	15	0	27	5	26	17	1500	4
	MT. ROSE, SLIDE, MT., NV	10	33	8	26	7	26	17	1500	4
	SNOQUALMIE PASS 1-90	5	22	7	26	7	26	17	1500	4
	SQUAW VALLEY, CALIF	21	143	7	28	22	7	18	1500	4
WEST COAST										
	ALPINE MEADOWS, CAL	116	318	8	29	73	26	12	1500	4
	ALYESKA, ALASKA	17	145	2	31	18	8	15	1500	4
	KIRKWOOD, MDWS, CALIF	27	127	7	29	13	26	16	1500	4
	MAMMOTH MTN, CALIF	22	37	8	27	18	8	17	1500	4
	MT. RAINIER, WASH	6	15	0	27	5	26	17	1500	4
	MT. ROSE, SLIDE, MT., NV	10	33	8	26	7	26	17	1500	4
	SNOQUALMIE PASS 1-90	5	22	7	26	7	26	17	1500	4
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	MT. RAINIER, WASH	6	15	0	27	5	26	17	1500	4
	MT. ROSE, SLIDE, MT., NV	10	33	8	26	7	26	17	1500	4
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	MT. ROSE, SLIDE, MT., NV	10	33	8	26	7	26	17	1500	4
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	MAMMOTH MTN, CALIF	22	37	8	27	18	8	17	1500	4
	MT. RAINIER, WASH	6	15	0	27	5	26	17	1500	4
	MT. ROSE, SLIDE, MT., NV	10	33	8	26	7	26	17	1500	4
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	MT. RAINIER, WASH	6	15	0	27	5	26	17	1500	4
	MT. ROSE, SLIDE, MT., NV	10	33	8	26	7	26	17	1500	4
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	SQUAW VALLEY, CALIF	21	143	7	28</td					